

# NEWS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

**JULY 15, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 13, 2005, **JABRAE D. THOMAS**, age 30, of DuQuoin, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. THOMAS, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, was sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment, was fined \$300, and was placed on 10 years' supervised release.

The crack cocaine conspiracy ran from at least 2002 through March 4, 2004, in DuQuoin, Illinois, and in St. Louis, Missouri. Co-defendants ARCHIE DUNKLIN, JR., JOHN L. TOLLIVER, and HOUSTON SPILLER, were previously sentenced to 360 months' imprisonment, 240 months' imprisonment and 70 months' imprisonment, respectively, for their role in the crack cocaine conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Perry County Drug Task Force pursuant to their participation in the Perry County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. In addition, the Perry County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in Perry County Circuit Court.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys George Norwood and Amanda Robertson.